



## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8

999 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET - SUITE 300

DENVER, CO 80202-2466

Phone 800-227-8917

<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

Ref: 8EPR

RE: Soil Sample Results for 10036 Highway 145

Dear Ms. Sellar-Baker:

I am pleased to inform you that EPA has completed the testing of the soil samples collected from your property in October 2003. Your soil was tested for arsenic, mercury and lead, in addition to other metals of potential concern (e.g. cadmium, zinc, etc.). The results of your soil samples are reported in milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) which is equivalent to parts per million (ppm) and are shown in the attached table. Only the results for lead are included with this letter as results for all other contaminants throughout the town were below action levels.

According to current EPA guidance, lead levels over 400 ppm pose a potential health risk to sensitive populations (children and pregnant women, in particular). At higher levels, the risk becomes more acute and EPA recommends environmental intervention (i.e. removal of soils). The health risk is associated with ingestion or inhalation of the lead contaminant directly from the soil. In addition, lead contamination can be tracked indoors from people and pets, and is blown in from soil particulates and ambient air.

**The samples results for your property do not show elevated levels of lead (i.e. greater than 400 ppm) and therefore do not present an unacceptable health risk.** Therefore, no further action is necessary. While the levels of lead on your property are below that which EPA recommends any action, I am enclosing fact sheets you might be interested in, that have been distributed to other members of the community that do have high lead levels.

**Other findings:** Based on our entire October 2003 sampling effort, we have found a few properties with lead levels high enough that we are recommending they be immediately cleaned up this summer. Additionally, there are a fair number of properties with moderate to high levels of lead (i.e. > 400 ppm) that, although we are not recommending an immediate cleanup, we are concerned that if left unaddressed, the levels in these yards may present long term health risks. Accordingly, those contaminated soils may ultimately need to be removed. EPA's ultimate recommendation regarding yards with moderate to high lead levels (i.e. those not being cleaned up immediately) will be made after EPA has discussed this matter thoroughly with the community and other stakeholders. Please also note that not all of the residential properties in Rico were sampled in October and we anticipate additional assessment/sampling will be conducted this spring and summer on properties that have not yet been sampled to determine whether additional properties would be recommended for clean up this summer.

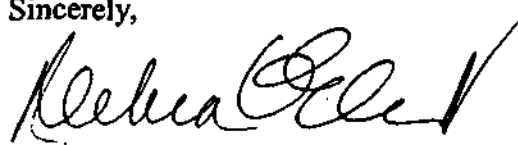


You may have more specific health-related and/or cleanup questions about the results of our sampling. EPA staff will be available to talk to you in person and confidentially about your results at an **"availability session"** we have scheduled at the Rico Town Hall on February 10<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. You can stop by anytime during the session.

In addition, EPA will be hosting a **public meeting** on the evening of February 11, 2004 at the Rico Town Hall to further discuss our findings, future assessment work needed, and the best approach for dealing with health impacts to the community.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to call Dr. Susan Griffin (Toxicologist) at 303-312-6651 with questions on potential health risks, or Ted Linnert (Community Involvement Coordinator) at 303-312-6119 with other questions. Thank you for your continued cooperation in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debra G. Ehlert', with a large checkmark at the end.

Debra G. Ehlert, P.E., Chief  
Brownfields and Site Assessment Unit

cc: Daniel Scheppers  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

**SOIL SAMPLE RESULTS**  
**RICO, COLORADO**

**PROPERTY OWNER:** United States Forrest Service

**PROPERTY:** 10036 Highway 145

**LEAD CONCENTRATIONS (mg/kg)**

Sample Location	Field Analytical Results	LaboratoryAnalytical Results	Sample Description	Sample ID
Aspen grove	43 J	52	Depth Sample	RAHYFS1D1
Aspen grove	85 J	None	Surface Sample	RAHYFS1S1
Front and rear of station	47 J	None	Surface Sample	RAHYFS1S2

U - The analyte was not detected above the detection limit. The detection limit is reported.

J - The associated numerical value is an estimated quantity between the detection limit and the quantitation limit.